



Washington State
Public Works Board



Water System Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program

WSARP helps local governments maintain safe and reliable drinking water systems

The 2003 Legislature, at the request of Governor Gary Locke, committed an initial \$4 million to help municipal water systems acquire and rehabilitate public water systems that have water quality problems or have been allowed to deteriorate to a point where public health is an issue. The purpose of the Water System Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program (WSARP) is to help local governments maintain safe and reliable drinking water systems throughout the state.

The WSARP grants protect public health and create new jobs in communities around the state by:

- Financing the transfer of ownership of failing drinking water systems to municipal water systems with a history of sound utility management.
- Subsidizing capital construction projects to help priority systems achieve compliance with state and federal safe drinking water regulations.

“It will be great to turn on the water and not worry about it being contaminated.”

– A Quilcene water system customer

The program is modeled after the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan program. It is jointly administered by the Washington Department of Health (DOH), the Public Works Board (Board), and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED).

Thirty-three applications, worth nearly \$10 million, were received in November 2003. DOH staff reviewed and prioritized the eligible applications, and in April of 2004 the Board approved offering grant funding to the top 14 projects that were ready to proceed. Twenty-eight public water systems will be acquired and rehabilitated as a result of these projects. These high-priority projects address the following public health issues:



- Unsafe spring source
- Arsenic levels exceeding state/federal standards
- Orders to boil water
- Lead and copper levels exceeding state/federal standards
- Shallow wells
- Nitrate levels exceeding state/federal standards
- Low pressures and backflow hazards
- Iron and manganese levels exceeding state/federal standards
- Bacteriological contamination

The acquiring jurisdictions will own and operate the system(s) to be acquired, providing customers with a well-managed system and a safe, reliable drinking water source.

Contracts are currently being executed for these projects. Thirteen projects below the funding cut-off remain. It is not known whether this program will continue to receive funding. A budget package is being developed by CTED for the Governor's consideration for possible inclusion in the state's capital construction budget for 2005-2007.



**Marblemount Drive
Well House**

This booklet provides a brief description of the 14 projects, in priority order, which were offered funding in 2004:

Skagit County PUD #1 – \$142,712 to form a satellite water system that will provide drinking water to residences and commercial properties in the Marblemount community. The project will decommission shallow wells to avoid drinking water contamination.

Pasadena Park Irrigation District #17 in Spokane County – \$203,423 to extend its water main to Orchard Prairie School District #123. The project will supply the school with water, consolidate the school system into the district and decommission the school well, which is contaminated with nitrate.

Silverdale Water District #16 in Kitsap County – \$624,725 to acquire and rehabilitate three water systems. The project provides a water main extension. It also abandons inadequate treatment systems and existing water sources and reservoirs with a history of bacterial contamination, elevated iron, manganese, and arsenic.

Mason County PUD #1 – \$101,000 to acquire and rehabilitate Arcadia Estates Water System. The project will

provide source improvements and includes replacement of a redwood storage tank susceptible to bacteria problems.

Cedar River Water and Sewer District in King County – \$984,223 to acquire the Dorre Don Water System. The project will abandon Dorre Don's existing spring source and allow for a looped system through the area. This will reduce the number of individual wells and small water systems and redundant water supply and distribution infrastructure.

City of Olympia in Thurston County – \$203,625 to acquire and rehabilitate the Woodland Park Utility Association water system. The project may allow the city to lower water rates due to the elimination of an existing system with high maintenance and operational costs.



Dorre Don Water System

Stevens County PUD – \$220,300 to acquire and rehabilitate Chattaroy Springs West Water District #11, which serves a rural subdivision in northeast Spokane County. The project will allow customers to abandon their low volume spring water source and connect to a water system with lower operation and maintenance costs.

Skagit County PUD #1 – \$122,009 to acquire and rehabilitate the Skagit View Village system. The project will bring the system into compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule of the Safe Drinking Water Act. It includes installing corrosion control treatment and a treated drinking water reservoir.

City of Chehalis in Lewis County – \$469,773 to allow the Newaukum Village Water System to connect to the City of Chehalis' water system. The project will provide Newaukum Village customers with safe reliable water. This will remedy several boil water notices, water outages and backflow hazards that occurred during the past year.

Jefferson County PUD #1 – \$298,920 to consolidate, upgrade and eliminate approximately six problematic Group A water systems, several Group B systems, and numerous individual wells in the Quilcene area. The project will eliminate numerous Group A and B systems and provide safe and reliable water to the rural community, limit the need for future systems, and provide PUD management.

Juniper Beach Water District in Island County – \$19,194 to acquire the Second Chance Thrift Store's water system. The project will replace a water supply that has an excess of arsenic.

Stevens County PUD – \$64,520 to acquire and rehabilitate the Dolomite Water System. The project will include source reconstruction, treatment, and improved metering and controls.

Mason County PUD #1 – \$169,750 to acquire and rehabilitate Canal Beach Tracts Mutual Water Company and Glen Ayr Canal Resort, LLC. The project includes a new water source, storage reservoir, emergency power and distribution. It remedies existing wells vulnerable to flooding and surface water influence.

Whatcom County PUD #1 – \$375,826 to acquire and rehabilitate water systems at three large facilities. The project will supply potable water to some 2,000 people.



List of projects* that fell below the funding cut-off:

Borrower	Project	Grant Amount
Snohomish County PUD Number 1	Candy Cane Park Water System Integration	\$576,930
City of Lacey	Acquisition And Rehabilitation of Betti's Hawks Prairie Water System	\$46,493
Mason County PUD Number 1	Twanoh Heights Source Rehabilitation	\$91,000
Pasadena Park Irrigation District Number 17	Pleasant Prairie Water Users Association Water Main Replacement	\$186,759
Stevens Public Utility District	Acquisition & Improvements to Indian Village Estates Water System	\$242,000
Stevens Public Utility District	Mission Lake/Mission Ridge Water System Improvement Project	\$158,370
Covington Water District	Ravensdale Water Supply Company & Mobile Home Park Acquisition	\$447,052
Cross Valley Water District	Mountain View Terrace Water Association Rehabilitation and Takeover	\$212,500
Grays Harbor County	Acquisition and Improvement of Ocean City Water Works LLC and Pacific Winds Mutual Water Association	\$40,000
Snohomish County PUD Number 1	Pilchuck 26 Merger	\$282,445
City of Tumwater	Jones Industrial Park Water System Acquisition and Rehabilitation	\$384,335
Silverdale Water District Number 16	Hogan Water System	\$52,427
City of Spokane	Acquisition of Vel-View Water District #13 Spokane Water Department	\$161,513
TOTAL		\$2,881,824

*Six applications were determined to be ineligible or declined grant offers.

For more information:

Leslie Hafford
 Client Service Representative
 Public Works Board
 (360) 586-4128
leslie.hafford@pwb.wa.gov

Chris Gagnon
 Department of Health
 Office of Drinking Water
 (360) 236-3095
chris.gagnon@doh.wa.gov



The Department of Health is an equal opportunity agency. For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TTY 1-800-833-6388). For additional copies of this publication, call 1-800-521-0323. This and other publications are available at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw>.